Opening an LPG agency at Jagatsinghpur

2251. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new LPG agency is proposed to be opened at Jagatsinghpur in Orissa in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details of progress made in this regard so far?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The oil industry has decided to set up an LPG distributorship at Jagatsinghpur in Orissa. Selection of a distributor will be made in accordance with the prescribed procedure of advertisement for inviting applications and selection by Oil Selection Board (East).

Shortage of Naphtha in the country

2252. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Naphtha at present in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Naphtha shortage is likely to touch 17.9 lakh tonnes by the year 1990 and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any arrangements are being made by Government to meet the shortage of Naphtha in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Differential in prices of soft coke

2253. DR. R. K. PODDAR:

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for differential in prices of soft coke, which is issued at Rs. 7 per 40 Kg. by the Coal India Limited, in different parts of the country like Delhi at Rs. 23.70; Bhopal at Rs. 40; Calcutta at Rs. 31.76 for 40 Kg.;

(b) what factors are responsible for such differentials; and

(c) what steps Government contemplate to stop this exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The ex-colliery price of soft coke has been fixed by the Government for domestic consumption is Rs. 175/- per tonne which works out Rs. 7/- for 40 Kg. Distribution of soft coke, and regulation of its price is within the purview of the State Governments concerned. The retail price paid by domestic consumers of soft coke has various elements over and above the ex-colliery price: transportation cost, handling, distribution charges and other statutory levies as applicable. There is no exploitation of consumers by Coal Companies.

Sick industries in Orissa

2254. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many industries have so far fallen sick in Orissa;

(b) what are the reasons for their sickness; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken for the revival of those units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country are collected by tht Reserve Bank of India as